

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a telephony over data network ~~system-method~~ having ~~at least one~~ originating gateway ~~and at least one terminating gateway~~, a method of adapting said one originating gateway to operate with more than one communications carrier, said method comprising the steps of:
 - storing ~~in association with different carriers at least two~~ indicia in a storage medium accessible to said one originating gateway;
 - comparing said ~~stored~~ indicia to data associated with an incoming call; and
 - connecting said call if one of said ~~stored~~ indicia matches said data associated with said call, ~~connecting said call~~ utilizing a carrier server corresponding to ~~a carrier~~ said communications carrier associated with said ~~one of said stored~~ indicia, said carrier server having data associated with said call.
2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 said step of connecting said call further comprising receiving an IVR script from said server associated with said carrier.
3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 said indicia comprising at least one digit associated with said incoming call.
4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 said indicia comprising a PIN.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said originating gateway comprises more than one port with the number of ports equal to or greater than the number of communications carrier.
6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 said indicia comprising a port identifier.
7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, said step of assigning performed by a system gateway administrator.

8. (Currently Amended) A system portion, comprising:
 - [[an]] one originating gateway connected to a plurality of communications carriers;
 - ~~and at least two~~ a plurality of communications carrier-identifying indicia stored ~~in~~ association with different carriers in a storage medium accessible [[to]] by said originating gateway;
 - a means of comparing said ~~stored~~ indicia to data associated with an incoming call;
 - and
 - means responsive to one of said ~~stored~~ indicia matching data contained in said call for connecting said call to a carrier server for authentication, said carrier server being associated with said one of said indicia.
9. (Original) The system according to Claim 8 further comprising a means for receiving an IVR script from said carrier.
10. (Original) The system according to Claim 8 said indicia comprising at least one digit associated with said incoming call.
11. (Original) The system according to Claim 9 said indicia comprising a PIN.
12. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 10 wherein said one originating gateway comprises more than one port and the number of ports is at least as great as the number of communications carriers.
13. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 12 further wherein said indicia comprising a port identifier.
14. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 8 further comprising a system gateway administrator and a means for assigning carrier-identifying indicia.
15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing communications carrier-identification indicia in association with different carriers;

[[a]] one receiver for incoming calls;

a comparator for comparing data associated with said incoming calls with said carrier-identification indicia for the purpose of authentication; and means for authenticating said incoming calls via at least one of plural remote carrier servers, the at least one remote carrier server being selected based upon a successful comparison between carrier-identifying indicia and said data associated with said incoming call.

16. (Currently Amended) In a telephony over data network system having ~~at least one~~ originating gateway ~~and at least one terminating gateway~~, a method of adapting said one originating gateway to be associated with more than one carrier, said method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~at least~~ said one originating gateway with more than one port;

assigning to each of a plurality of carrier servers in said network a particular port within said ~~at least one~~ originating gateway;

assigning to each port carrier-identifying indicia;

~~storing said indicia in a storage medium associated with said originating gateway;~~

comparing said ~~stored~~ indicia to data associated with an incoming call; and

~~if stored indicia match data contained in said call,~~ connecting said call to a server associated with a carrier corresponding to the matching indicia if indicia match data contained in said call.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A gateway~~ The method of Claim 16 further comprising software to identify an entity responsible for authenticating [[a]] the call and ~~software~~ to route the call for authentication over a data network to a server associated with said entity.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~gateway-method~~ of claim 17 wherein the software identifies the entity by determining at least one of: which port said call arrives, a carrier identifier, one or more digits associated with the call, or out of band information.
19. (Currently Amended) A ~~gateway~~ The method of claim 16 further comprising software to identify an entity responsible for implementing an IVR script for a call and software to route said call to an IVR server associated with said entity.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~The gateway~~ The method of claim 19 wherein the software identifies the entity by determining at least one of: which port said call arrives, a carrier identifier, one or more digits associated with the call, or out of band.
21. (Currently Amended) A single gateway comprising an interface to convey an IVR script from a remote server to a calling apparatus, the single gateway further comprising a selection means to convey a different script depending upon an identifier associated with a call associated with said calling apparatus, said single gateway being further adapted to contact at least one of plural servers upon receipt of the call, the at least one server being selected upon said identifier.
22. (Original) The gateway of claim 21 wherein the identifier comprises at least one of: a carrier identifier, one or more digits associated with the call, or out of band.

Claims 23-25 (Cancelled)